

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:*****National Maritime Day, National Transportation Week  
To be Commemorated, Celebrated***

MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs has joined with other maritime industry entities to raise public awareness of the maritime industry and to make National Maritime Day an event the entire nation embraces.

In 1933, Congress declared May 22 to be National Maritime Day, and each year since it has been a day for the United States to observe its proud maritime heritage, honor the men and women who serve and have served as merchant mariners and recognize the many benefits that result from our American maritime industry. National Maritime Day also follows on the heels of National Transportation Week, which the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced will run the week of May 14-20 this year.

As a way to underscore the critical importance of the maritime industry to the national transportation network, this year MARAD, supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Association of Port Authorities, The Propeller Club of the United States, Waterways Council, Inc., National Waterways Conference, Inc. and other maritime groups, will intro-

duce an awareness campaign designed to focus national attention on the maritime industry.



Called "Maritime Matters," the campaign will help to communicate the value of the maritime industry in relation to the economy, national security, jobs, environmental protection, agri-

culture, quality of life, recreation and more.

For example, according to MARAD, our nation's ports and coastal and inland waterways support the annual movement of more than 2.5 billion tons of domestic and international commerce. They also generate significant local and regional economic growth, support nearly five million jobs and annually provide facilities for millions of cruise and ferry passengers.

On May 22 this year, commemorative activities will take place across the country—at seaports and along inland waterways—in combination with National Maritime Day observances in the District of Columbia. To visit the web site MARAD has developed to help ports and cities announce their National Maritime Day events, go to [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov) and click on the "National Maritime Day" toolbar. This site provides up-to-date information on National Maritime Day commemorative activities across the country, along with a history of why the observance day came into being and how the maritime industry has evolved to touch each and every American life.

***MARAD Update***

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